

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Washington, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 1520.31A
OP-114D
18 May 1990

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1520.31A

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: All Ships and Stations (less Marine Corps field addressees not having Navy personnel attached)

Subj: MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY/WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION JOINT MASTER'S IN OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAM (CURRICULUM #375)

Encl: (1) Brief Sheet (detach and use as appropriate, then destroy)

1. **Purpose.** To announce the policy and procedural guidance governing selection and assignment of naval officers for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (MIT/WHOI) Joint Master's in Oceanography Program.

R) 2. **Cancellation.** OPNAVINST 1520.31.

R) 3. **Background.** The Secretary of the Navy directed the establishment of an MIT/WHOI Joint Master's degree program in Oceanography as part of a major reinvigoration of Navy efforts

A) in oceanography. Each June four Unrestricted Line (URL) officers and two Restricted Line Oceanography (180X) officers will enter the

R) program. The four URL participants will be selected from the warfare specialist communities,

A) specifically: 111X, 112X, 131X, 132X based on projected XX49 subspecialty requirements for these designators. Upon completion of the program, these officers will retain their designation as officers of the URL and will be awarded the XX49P subspecialty code. Two newly commissioned officers, one each from the United States Naval Academy (USNA) and the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC), will also participate, and completion of the program will lead to their designation as

oceanographers in the 1800 community and as XX49P-coded subspecialists. All applicants for this program must submit a formal MIT/WHOI entrance application and be accepted by MIT/WHOI in the same manner as prescribed for other students. Participation is contingent upon academic acceptance by MIT/WHOI.

4. **Policy**

a. Naval officers must carry a full academic load, including summer sessions, as defined by MIT/WHOI. Degree requirements will be completed in the shortest possible time. Course work must fulfill the educational skill requirements (ESRs) for the XX49P subspecialty. Acceptance of teaching or research assistantships is not permitted under this program. Participation will be limited to not more than 27 months. Extensions to this program are highly discouraged, and are approved by the Chief of Naval Operations upon administrative board action conducted by the Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command (COMNAVMILPERS-COM).

b. Participants in this program will receive their regular pay and allowances and will be entitled to permanent change of station costs if applicable. The Superintendent, Naval Postgraduate School, will fund this program under the Civilian Institutions (CIVINS) program. Student expenses will be reimbursed per the current Naval Postgraduate School CIVINS instruction.

c. This program will be considered fully-funded graduate education. As such, the obligated service incurred upon completion or termination of the program will be a period three times the length of education through the first year and month for each month thereafter. The obligation will be served consecutively with other obligated service incurred before entering the graduate program.

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5. **Eligibility.** Active duty naval officers who meet eligibility criteria may participate in this program. Each year the program is open to individuals who will be commissioned following

- R) spring graduation from the United States Naval Academy (USNA) or Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) and to URL and 180X officers as specified in paragraph 2 in the rank of lieutenant or lieutenant commander who have demonstrated distinguished performance, noteworthy leadership abilities, academic proficiency, and clear potential for professional growth. All applicants for acceptance into the program must meet the academic eligibility requirements of MIT/WHOI.

6. **Application Procedures for First Class Midshipmen at the USNA and NROTC.** The nomination of students at USNA and in NROTC who may apply formally to enter this program after commissioning is the responsibility of the Superintendent, United States Naval Academy (SUPT, USNA) and the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET), respectively. Specific academic requirements for USNA and NROTC candidates include:

a. **Major:** Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, or Oceanography/Meteorology with a Math/Physics minor.

b. **Grade Point Average (GPA):** 3.5 minimum (on a 4.0 scale).

c. **Graduate Record Examination (GRE):** General Test Verbal, Quantitative, Analytical subscores each 650 minimum. Subject Test (Physics, Math, or Engineering) total score 700 minimum. Annually in the summer, USNA and CNET will issue academic requirements and all necessary information governing the internal selection of four to eight first class midshipmen from both the USNA and the NROTC graduating

- R) classes. USNA and CNET each will provide nominees and qualifications to COMNAV-MILPERS COM (NMPC-440) with copy to the Oceanographer of the Navy (OP-096) by 15 November of each year. Those individuals selected by COMNAV-MILPERSCOM and the

Oceanographer of the Navy (OP-096) will be provided with application materials by 30 November each year and will submit forms and enclosures per MIT/WHOI deadline dates.

7. **Application Procedures for URL and 180X Officers in the Ranks of Lieutenant and Lieutenant Commander.** Officers in the ranks of lieutenant and lieutenant commander will be invited to apply for this program. Graduate education selection boards will select individuals whom they deem particularly well qualified for special oceanography programs. Names of selectees will be kept on file for a period of 3 years during which time individuals available for transfer at the required time will be contacted by the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy (OP-096). If interested, they will be provided with MIT/WHOI application forms and program details. (R)

8. **GRE Score Reporting.** Officers who take (GRE) General and Subject Tests in connection with this program will report scores to COMNAV-MILPERSCOM and Naval Postgraduate School by entering both code R5806-5 and code R4831-4 in block 13 of the registration form.

9. **Selection Summary and Assignment**

a. In all cases, only those who have received applications from the Oceanographer of the Navy (OP-096) will submit formal applications to MIT/WHOI. (A)

b. Following receipt of official entrance application forms from authorized applicants, MIT/WHOI will select as many applicants as it finds qualified and will notify them of acceptance. MIT/WHOI will also provide the names of all accepted individuals to COMNAV-MILPERSCOM/Oceanographer of the Navy (OP-096). The maximum entrants each year will be eight. A letter of acceptance from MIT/WHOI does not guarantee sponsorship by the Navy. Final Navy designation of accepted candidates will be effected by the Oceanographer of the Navy (OP-096) in consonance with

COMNAVMILPERSCOM. The sponsored individuals will be notified by the Oceanographer of the Navy (OP-096) that they may participate in the program. Individuals accepted by MIT/WHOI but not sponsored by the Navy may reapply for the program in future years.

c. Once selected for the program, an officer's assignment to duty-under-instruction will be predicated on continued outstanding professional performance and availability for assignment.

- A) d. For nuclear trained officers being assigned to the MIT/WHOI program, the officer's total time away from a nuclear billet must be considered. NMPC-440 will obtain concurrence from NMPC-42/OP-131 (Nuclear Propulsion Program Manager) prior to approving orders for these officers.

10. **Report.** The reporting requirement contained in paragraph 7 is exempt from reports control per SECNAVINST 5214.2B.

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(Manpower, Personnel and Training)

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For Your INFORMATION

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY/WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION JOINT MASTER'S IN OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAM

The MIT/WHOI Joint Master's Program enables limited numbers of highly qualified officers to earn Master's degrees in Oceanography at these prestigious schools. Graduates also receive the XX49P subspecialty code and can expect to fill subspecialty-coded billets in subsequent tours. Officers study full-time at MIT/WHOI in a 27-month program and receive full pay and allowances. Tuition is paid by the Navy.

Application procedures are contained in OPNAVINST 1520.31A

Enclosure (1)

DISPLAY ON BULLETIN BOARD AND PUBLISH AS APPROPRIATE, THEN DESTROY.
INCLUSION IN THE PLAN OF THE DAY IS RECOMMENDED. USE OF THIS INFORMATION BY NAVY BROADCASTING SERVICE/AFRT OUTLETS ASHORE AND BY SITE TELEVISION OPERATORS AFLOAT IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.